

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 SAM-01 NIC-01 ACDA-19 IO-14

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

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DRC-01 /155 W

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R 271324Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4645

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 13534

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB, GE, GW, US, UR

SUBJECT: FRG FONOFF VIEW OF UPCOMING GROMYKO VISIT TO
BONN

REF: BONN 11900

1. SUMMARY. FRG FONOFF REP HAS DESCRIBED TO US LIMITED GERMAN EXPECTATIONS FOR GROMYKO'S VISIT TO BONN IN MID-SEPTEMBER. FONOFF REGARDS VISIT AS MORE OF FACT-FINDING TOUR FOR GROMYKO, WHO WILL BE FIRST SENIOR SOVIET OFFICIAL TO VISIT FRG SINCE SCHMIDT/GENSCHER TOOK OFFICE. FRG SIDE WILL RAISE BERLIN PROBLEMS AND BILATERAL ISSUES, INCLUDING VARIOUS AGREEMENTS AWAITING FINAL NEGOTIATION. GERMANS EXPECT SOVIETS TO RAISE ECONOMIC MATTERS. VISIT WILL SERVE PRIMARILY TO PAVE WAY FOR SCHMIDT'S TRIP TO MOSCOW LATER IN THE YEAR. END SUMMARY.

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2. RELIABLE FRG FONOFF REP DISCUSSED WITH US UPCOMING

GROMYKO VISIT (SEPTEMBER 15-16) TO BONN. HE SAID THE ATMOSPHERE FOR THE VISIT WAS FAIRLY GOOD: BERLIN DIFFICULTIES HAD DIED DOWN SO THAT THERE WERE NO SERIOUS, MAJOR PROBLEMS BETWEEN MOSCOW AND BONN. HE ADDED THAT, IN THE FRG FONOFF VIEW, THE SOVIETS WERE INTENT ON PRESSING AHEAD WITH THEIR WESTPOLITIK, ESPECIALLY IN THE CSCE CONTEXT IN GENEVA, SO THAT HE DID NOT ENVISAGE ANY STICKY ISSUES RISING IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.

3. THE FONOFF IS TENDING TO CONSIDER THE VISIT AS MORE OF A FACT-FINDING TOUR FOR THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP: GROMYKO WILL BE THE FIRST TOP-LEVEL SOVIET OFFICIAL TO MEET WITH GENSCHER (AND PRESUMABLY SCHMIDT) SINCE THE NEW TEAM TOOK OVER IN BONN. THE FONOFF IS OF THE OPINION THAT GROMYKO, HAVING IN MIND THAT SCHMIDT WILL MAKE HIS FIRST VISIT TO MOSCOW AS CHANCELLOR LATER IN THE YEAR, WILL BE OUT TO ASSESS THE NEW TEAM AND ITS FIRMNESS.

4. GENSCHER IS REPORTEDLY READY TO BE QUITE TOUGH WITH GROMYKO ON A RANGE OF PROBLEMS, ALTHOUGH HE IS SAID TO BE UNDER PRESSURE FROM SCHMIDT TO CONCLUDE A FEW BILATERAL AGREEMENTS THAT WILL PRESERVE THE APPEARANCE OF SOME MOVEMENT IN THE FRG'S OSTPOLITIK. THE PRIMARY PROBLEMS FOR THE FRG RELATE TO BERLIN: THE FONOFF SOURCE SAID THAT GENSCHER WOULD TRY TO CONVINCE THE SOVIETS TO BE FORTHCOMING ON SUCH MATTERS AS LEGAL ASSISTANCE, FEDERAL PRESENCE, FOREIGN REPRESENTATION AND LUFTHANSA'S LANDINGS IN WEST BERLIN. OUR SOURCE WAS FAR FROM SANGUINE THAT THERE WOULD BE MUCH PROGRESS IN THIS AREA, HOWEVER.

5. IN THE FIELD OF BILATERAL AGREEMENTS, THE FRG WOULD LIKE TO SIGN THE LONG-OUTSTANDING SCIENTIFIC-TECHNOLOGICAL AGREEMENT. HERE AGAIN, HOWEVER, THE BERLIN PROBLEM BLOCKS THE WAY. GENSCHER IS PREPARED TO STONEWALL, FEELING THAT THE SOVIETS STAND TO GAIN MOST FROM THE AGREEMENT, BUT SCHMIDT REPORTEDLY FAVORS CONCLUSION OF A SERIES OF SMALLER TECHNICAL AGREEMENTS IF THE LARGER

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UMBRELLA SCIENTIFIC-TECHNOLOGICAL AGREEMENT CANNOT BE CONCLUDED.

6. THE FONOFF EXPECTS THE SOVIET SIDE TO PRESS HARD FOR THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO ENGAGE ITSELF MORE DIRECTLY IN PROMOTING FRG-USSR ECONOMIC COOPERATION. OUR SOURCE SAID THIS SORT OF PRESSURE WAS ALREADY EVIDENT FROM THE SOVIETS, WHO HAD REFRAINED, HOWEVER, IN RECENT MONTHS

FROM SEEKING LONG-TERM, LOW-INTEREST CREDITS. OUR SOURCE SAID THAT THE LATTER TOPIC WOULD PROBABLY COME UP AGAIN, HOWEVER, IF ONLY TO PERMIT GROMYKO TO TEST THE NEW GOVERNMENT'S VIEWS ON THIS MATTER. WE ARE TOLD THAT GENSCHER WILL, WITH SCHMIDT'S SUPPORT, FIRMLY EXPLAIN THE ECONOMIC FACTS OF LIFE TO GROMYKO.

7. FONOFF REP SAID THAT GENSCHER WOULD ALSO COME DOWN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 13534

HARD ON THE NEED FOR MORE EXPEDITIOUS AND REASONABLE SOVIET HANDLING OF FAMILY REUNIFICATION AND HUMANITARIAN CASES. ETHNIC GERMANS WERE BEING PERMITTED TO LEAVE AT THE RATE OF ABOUT 6,000 PER YEAR. SINCE THERE ARE ABOUT 40,000 IN THE USSR, THE FULL RELEASE WILL TAKE OVER SIX YEARS: GENSCHER CONSIDERS THIS FAR TOO LONG, NOT LEAST BECAUSE HE IS COMING UNDER HEAVY

PARLIAMENTARY PRESSURE FOR SPEEDIER RESOLUTION OF THE EMIGRATION PROBLEM. HERE TOO, HOWEVER, OUR SOURCE WAS NOT OPTIMISTIC THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD TAKE A POSITIVE POSITION.

8. CONCLUSION THE GENERAL FEELING IN THE FONOFF IS THAT THE VISIT WILL BE USEFUL IN ENABLING GROMYKO AND GENSCHER TO SIZE EACH OTHER UP AND POSSIBLY ALSO IN SETTLING A FEW MINOR DIFFICULTIES. EVEN A COUPLE OF AGREEMENTS MAY BE CONCLUDED. THE SOVIETS WILL DO CONFIDENTIAL

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NOTHING TO SOUR THE ATMOSPHERE, BUT WILL ALSO REFRAIN FROM TAKING ANY MAJOR STEPS TOWARD AMELIORATING RELATIONS. AS OUR SOURCE SAID, THERE IS NO REASON FOR THE SOVIETS TO MOVE QUICKLY OR FAR ON MANY OF THE OUTSTANDING BILATERAL ISSUES. ANY MOVEMENT TT DOES COME, HE CONCLUDED, WOULD PROBABLY OCCUR WHEN SCHMIDT IS IN MOSCOW, WHERE THE TOP LEADERS CAN TAKE CREDIT FOR ANY SUCCESSES.
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